GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5259
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2007
DECLINE IN FERTILITY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fertility of all kinds of agricultural land in the country is loosing its quality continuously over the past few years;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken/proposes to take any steps to arrest this trend; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the allocation made for the purpose, State- wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): There is no indication of large scale degradation of soil fertility in the country. However, there are few instances of deterioration of soil fertility/certain nutrient deficiencies in some parts of the country, especially in Indo-Gangetic plains due to inadequate and imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers.

(b): The Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), which envisage soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micronutrients in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers under various schemes.

(c): The Government is providing financial assistance for strengthening/setting up of soil testing laboratories @ Rs.10.00 lakhs through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertilizers under Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme. The Government is also providing Rs.50.00 lakhs for establishment of mechanized comport plants for conversion of biodegradable municipal solid waste into organic manure under the same scheme. There is no state-wise allocation of funds under the scheme, however, State Govts./Uts are implementing the scheme through their annual work plans.

In addition, Government is also providing financial assistance @ Rs.40.00 lakhs/unit for setting up of Fruits and vegetable waste compost, Rs.20.00 lakhs for setting up of bio-fertilizer production units and Rs.1.50 lakhs for setting up of vermiculture hatcheries under Central Sector Scheme, National project of Organic Farming through Project proposals of the States.